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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 AID-05 /075 W
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P 071722Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2050

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, GR, US
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF WELCH ASSASSINATION

REF: A) STATE 003139
B) ATHENS 0079

1. GREEK NEWSPAPERS ON AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 7
(NO MORNING PRESS DUE TO EPIPHANY HOLIDAY YESTERDAY),
ALL CARRIED PROMINENTLY ACCOUNTS OF THE FUNERAL
AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY YESTERDAY OF SLAIN EMBASSY
OFFICER RICHARD S. WELCH. ALL NEWSPAPERS MENTIONED
THE PARTICIPATION OF PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY
KISSINGER, OUTGOING CIA DIRECTOR COLBY AND INCOMING
DIRECTOR BUSH, AND OTHER IMPORTANT DIGNITARIES
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE.A NUMBER OF PAPERS CARRIED
PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRESIDENT FORD WALKING BESIDE
MRS. WLECH. A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS ALSO STRESSED
THE THEME THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A PRESIDENT
PARTICIPATED IN SERVICES FOR A CIA OFFICER.

2. ON A RELATED THEME (REFTELS), ALL AFTERNOON
PAPERS EXCEPT ESTIA CARRIED THE EMBASSY STATEMENT
OF YESTERDAY CONCERNING ELEFTHEROTYPIA'S
JANUARY 5TH ATTACK AGAINST AMBASSADOR KUBISCH.
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ELEFTHEROTYPIA ITSELF REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST

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THE EMBASSY STATEMENT, WHICH IT PUBLISHED, AND ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RAISED IN ITS JANUARY 5 STORY, E.G., WAS HE OR WAS HE NOT A MEMBER OF THE FORTY COMMITTEE WHICH REGULATES THE SECRETA ACTIVITY OF AMERICAN SERVICES FOR PERPETUATION OF AMERICAN HEGEMONY, WAS HE OR WAS HE NOT INVOLVED IN CHILE'S COUP, IS HE OR IS HE NOT A PERSONAL FRIEND OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND NATO'S CHIEF, GENERAL HAIG, ETC.? ARTICLE ALSO RAISES QUESTION WHETHER AMBASSADOR KUBISCH IS "A DIPLOMAT" OR "AN AGENT OF CIA", AND WHETHER HE HAS "ANOTHER MISSION IN GREECE BESIDES THE OFFICIAL ONE."

3. IN A VIRTUAL ACT OF DEFIANCE, PRINGED ON AN INSIDE PAGE, A BOXED ARTICLE APPEARS ENTITLED, "WHAT THE CIA AGENTS WANT IN ATHENS," ALLEGING THAT THE AMBASSADOR WILL FOLLOW NEW TACTICS IN THE WAKE OF THE WELCH MURDER, I.E., A NEW AMERICAN PLAN WHOSE NATURE IS NOT YET KNOWN. A PREVIOUS AMERICAN PLAN, ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE IN ELEFTHEROTYPIA, IN WHICH THE AMBASSADOR AND WELCH WERE ALLEGEDLY ENGAGED, INCLUDED THE "RUIN" OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND THE BREAKING UP OF THE GREEK POLITICAL WORLD. ELEFTHEROTYPIA DID NOT PUBLISH TODAY THE SECOND, SPECIFIC ARTICLE IN ITS SERIES ON THE AMBASSADOR, UNLESS THIS PARTICULAR BOXED ARTICLE WAS RECAST FROM ITS ORIGINAL VERSION.

4. OTHER THAN GIVING APPROPRIATE COVERAGE TO THE EMBASSYSTATEMENT ON THE MATTER OF YESTERDAY, OTHER GREEK DAILIES ARE VIRTUALLY IGNORING ELEFTHEROTYPIA AND ITS CHARGES AGAINST THE AMBASSADOR.
KUBISCH

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